

MERRIE CONCEITED IESTS OF

George Peele Gentleman, sometimes a student in Oxford.

Wherein is shewed the course of his life how he liued: a man very well knowne in the Citie of London and elſewhere.

Buy, read and iudge,
The price do not grudge:
It will do thee more pleasure,
Then twice ſo much treaſure.



LONDON,

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Henrie Bell, and are to be ſold at his ſhop in new
Fiſh-ſtreete neere to Eaſt-cheape.

1607.

I hereby certify

that the above named person
has been duly examined and
found to be a qualified person
to be admitted to the
practice of the second course
of the law in the State of
New York, which has been
done in accordance with the
provisions of the law in that
respect.

Witness my hand and seal
this 1st day of June, 1901.
At New York City.
J. M. [Signature]

To the Reader.

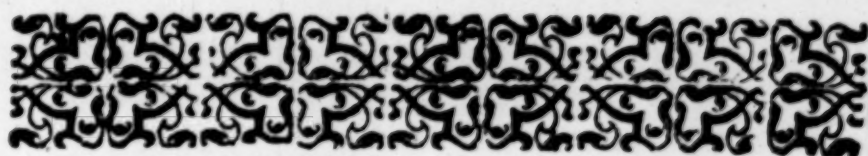
I Was made to gull those that reading this, will be gulled by any, to pleasure them that will take so much advantage of this, that in their discretion to shun such fellows now living (as in his life he was) though now dead: for although this is set downe of him, being but one, & nothing but truth, there is, I assure you for this one, twentie in this Citie living, this was only set downe as much for the delight of the Reader, as also to passe away some Idle howers in the melancholy evening: it shewes not any sparke of schollership in it, for it requires none but a plaine tale, for Tom to tell to lone: I leaue it to those that like it, and they that like it not, I wish it might leaue them: the wise will take it but for a toy, and if the simple take it otherwise, all I can say, is God amend their wit, *vale.*

*To be to use,
not to abuse.*

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The



The Iests of George Peele,
with foure of his compa-
nions at Brainford.

George, with others of his associates being merrie together at the Casuerne, hauing moze stoe of cogne then vsually they did possesse, although they were as regardlesse of their illuer, as a garden whose is of her honesty: yet they intended so2 a season to become good husbands: if they knew how to be sparing of that their pockets were then furnished withall: fīue popnds they had amongst them, and a plot must be cast how they might be merrie with extrao2dinary chere thre or foure dayes, and keepe their fīue pounds whole in stocke, George Peele was the man must doe it, or none, add generally they coniuured him by their loues, his owne credit, and the reputation that went on him, that he would but in this shew his wit: and withall he should haue all the furtherance that in them lay, George as easie as they earnest to be wonne to such an exploit, consented, and gathered their money together, and gaue it all to George, who should be their purse-bearer, and the other foure should serue as seruants to George Peele, and the better to colour it, they should go change their cloakes: the one like the other so neere as they could possible, the which at Belzububs brothers the broker they might

The Iests of George Peele.

might quickly do: This was soone accomplished, and George was furnished with his blacke Battin suit, and a paire of bootes which were as familiar to his legges as the pilloze to a Bakers or Colliers necke, and he sufficiently pleased his friends with the whole scope of his intent, as Gentle Reader, the sequell will shew. Instantly they tooke a paire of owers, whose armes were to make a false gallop no further then Brainford, where their faire was paid them so liberally, that each of them the next tide to London purchased two new wastcoats, yet should these good benefactors come to their vsuall places of trade: and if they spie a better fare then their owne, that happily the Gentleman hath more minde to go withall: they will not onely fall out with him that is of their owne sweete transporters as they are: but abuse the fare they carrie with soule speeches, as a For or the Diucll go with you: as their godfather Caron the Ferry man of Heil hath taught them: I speake not this of all, but of some that are bzought vp in the East, some in the West, some in the North, but most part in the South: But soz the rest they are honest compleat men, leauing them to come to my honest George; who is now merrie at the three Pigeons in Brainford with Hacke and Sugar, not any wines wanting, the Musicians playing, my host dzinking, my hostes dawning with the worshipfull Justice, soz so then he was tearmed, and his mention house in Kent, who came thither of purpose to be merrie with his men: because he could not so conueniently nere home, by reason of a shrewish wife he had, my gentle hostes gaue him all the entertainment her house could afford: soz M. Peele had payd royally: soz all his five pounds was come to ten groats. Now George Peeles wit labours to bzing in that five pounds there was spent, which was soone begotten: Weeing set at dinner, my host, quoth George,

The Iests of George Peele:

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George, how fairs the tide out for London. not tell the evening, quoth mine host, haue you any businesse sir, Yes marry, quoth George, I intend not to go home this two daies: Therefore my host saddle my man a horse for London, if you be so well furnished. for I must send him for one bagge more, quoth George, ten pounds hath Ieene no sunne this sixe moneths. I am ill furnished if I cannot furnish you with that, quoth my host, and presently saddled him a good nagge, and away rides one of Georges men to London, attending the good howse of his Maister Peele in London, in the meane time, George bespeakes great chere to supper. saying: he expected some of his friends from London: Now you must imagin there was not a peny owing in the house: for he had paid as liberall as Cesar, as farre as Cæsars wealth went: For indeed most of the money was one Cæsars an honest man yet liuing in London: but to the Catastrophe. All the day before, had one of the other men of George Peele bene a great soliciter to my hostes, she would begge leaue of his maister, he might go see a maid. a sweete heart of his so farre as Kingstone, and before his maister went to bed he would returne againe: saying he was sure shee might command it at his maisters hands: My kind hostes willing to pleasure the yong fellow, knowing in her time what belonged to such matters, went to P. Peele, and moued him in it which he angerly refused: but she was so earnest in it, that shee swore he should not deny her, protesting he went but to see an vnkle of his some fine rules off. Marrie I thanke you quoth George, my good hostes, would you so discredit me, or hath the knaue no more wit, then at this time to go knowing I haue no horse here, and would be base cullion as a fote. my. god sir, quoth mine hostes, be not angrie, it is not his intent to go a fote: for he shall haue my Mare, and I will

assure you Sir, vpon my word, hee shall bee here againe, to haue you to bee, well, quoth George, Hostes, He take you at your worde, let him go, his negligence shall light vpon you, so be it, quoth mine Hostes, so doone goeth shee, and sends away euill Thomas, for so shee cald him, to his sweete heart backt vpon her Mayre: which Thomas insteede of ryding to Kyngstone, tooke London in his way. where meeting with my other horseman attended the arriual of George Peele, which was not long after, they are at London, George in his Chamber at Wainford, accompanied with none: but one Anthony Nic a Barbor, who dind and supt with him continually, of whome hee had borrowed a Lute to passe away the melancholie afternoone, of which hee could play as well as Banckes his Hoyle, The Barbor very modestly takes his leaue, George Obsequiously bids him to supper, who God willing would not faile, George beeing left alone with his two supposed men, gaue them the meane how to escape, and walking in the Court, George found salt with the weather, saying it was rawish and colde, which worde mine Hostes hearing, my kinde Hostes fetched her Husbands holliday Cowne, which George thankfully put about him, and withall cald for a cup of sack, after which hee would walke into the Beddowes. and practise vpon his Lute, tis good for your worshippinge to do so, quoth mine Hostis, which walke, George tooke directly to Sion, where hauing the advantage of a paire of Dwers at hand, made this Journey for London, his two associates behinde had the plot in their heads by Georges instruction for their escape: for they knew hee was gone, my Hostes shee was in the Market buying of prouision for supper: mine Host hee was at Tables, and my two maister-
 lesse

The Iests of George Peele.

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lesse men desired the maids to excuse them if their same. so2 quoth they wee will 'goe drinke two pots with my Smug Smiths wife at olde Bzainsford, I warrant you, quoth the Maides. So away went my men to the Smiths at olde Bzainsford, from thence to London, where they all met, and solde the Hoyle and the Mare, the Cowne and the Lute, which money was as badly spent as it was lewdly got. How my Host and my Hostes lookt when they sawe the event of this, goe, but to the three Pidgeons at Bzainsford you shall knowe.

The Iest of George and the Barbor.

George was not so merry at London with his Capons and Claret, as pooze Anthony the Barbor was sorrowfull at Bzainsford so2 the losse of his Lute, & therefore determined to come to London to seeke out George Peele, which by the meanes of a kinsman, that Anthony Nit had in London, his name was Cuts o2 Feates, a fellow that had good skill in tricks on the Cards, and hee was well acquainted with the place, where Georges common abode was: and so2 kyndred sake hee directed the Barbor where he should have him, which was at a blind Alehouse in Sea-cole Lane, There he found George in a greene Jerkin, a Spanish platter fashioned Hatte, all alone at a peck of Mysters. The Barbers hart dancd within him, so2 ioy he had so happily found him, he gave him the time of the day, George, not a little abashed at the sight of the Barbor, yet went not to discover it openly, hee that at

all times had a quick Inuention. was not now behinde
 hand to entertaine my Barber, who knewe for what his
 comming was, George thus saluted him, my honest Bar-
 ber quoth George, welcom to London, I partly know your
 businesse, you come for your Lute, doe you not? Indeede
 Sir quoth the Barber for that is my comming, & beleue
 me quoth George you shall not lose your labour, I pray
 you stand too and take an Oyster, and Ile go with you
 presently: For a Gentleman in the Citie of great wooz-
 shippe, borrowed it of me for the vse of his Daughter,
 that playes exceeding well and had a great desire to haue
 the Lute but Sir, if you will goe along with me to the
 Gentlemans house you shall haue your Lute with great
 satisfaction, for had not you come, I assure you I had sent
 to you, for you must vnderstand, that all that was done
 at Wyainford among vs mad gentleman, was but a Iest
 and no otherwaies. Sir I thinke not any other wise,
 quoth the Barber: but I would desire your worship, that
 as you had it of me in loue: so in kindnesse you would
 helpe me to it againe, Oh God what els, quoth George,
 Ile goe with thee presently, euen as I am, for I came
 from hunting this morning; and should I goe vp to the
 certaine Gentleman aboue, I should hardly get away, I
 thanke you Sir, quoth the Barber so on goes George with
 him in his grane Jerken, a wand in his hand very pretty,
 till he came almost at the Aldermans House, where mak-
 ing a lodaine stay, a foze God quoth George I must
 craue thy pardon at this instant, for I haue bethought
 my selfe, should I go as I am, it would be imagined I
 had had some of my Lords hounds out this morning, there-
 fore Ile take my leave of thee and meet thee where thou
 wilt about one of the Clock. nay good Sir, quoth the Bar-
 ber goe with me now: for I purpose God willing to be at
 Wyainford to night, saiest thou so, quoth George: why the
 Ile

He tell thee what thou shalt doe, thou art here a stranger,
and altogether unknowne. lend me thy cloake and thy
hat, and doe thou put on my greene Jerken and He goe
with thee directly along: The Barber loth to leaue him
till he had his Lute, yielded to the change. So when they
came to the Gentlemans porch he put on Georges greene
Jerkin, and his Spanish hat: and hee the Barbers Cloake
and his hatte, either of them beeing thus fitted, George
knocks at the doore, to whom the Porter bids heartily
welcome, for George was well knowne, who at that
time had all the oversight of the Magiants he desires the
porter to bid his friends welcoms for he is a good fellowe
and a keeper, Master porter, one that at his pleasure can
bestowe a haunch of Venison on you, marry that can I,
quoth the Barber, I thanke you Sir, answered the Porter,
M. Peele my Master is in the Hall, please it you to
walke in. withall my heart quoth George, in the meane
time let my friend beare you company, that he shall M.
Peele, quoth the Porter, and if it please him he shall take
a simple dinner with me. The Barbor gives him hartly
thanks, not misdoubting M. Peele any way seeing him
knowne, and him selfe so welcome: fell in Chat with the
Porter. George Peele goes directly to the Alderman who
now is com into the Court in the eye of the Barbor, where
George after many complaints, shewes a black paper
out of his bosome, and making action to the Barbor, reads
to the Alderman as followeth, I humbly desire your wor-
ship to stand my friend in a sleight matter, yonder hard
favoured knave, that liss by your worships porter, hath
dogd me to arrest me. and I had no other meanes but to
take your worships house for shelter the occasion is but
triviall, onely for stealing of a pece of flesh, my selfe con-
sorted with three or foure gentlemen of good fashion, that
would not willingly have our names come in question.

There,

Therefore this is my boone, that your worshippe would let one of your seruants let me out at your Garden doze, and I shall thinke my selfe much indebted to your wor- ship. The kind gentleman, little dreaming of George Peeles deceipt, tooke him into the parlor, gaue him a brace of Angels, & caused one of his seruants to let George out at the Garden doze; which was no sooner opened, but George made way for the Barbor seeing him any more, & all the way he went could not choole but laugh at his kna- uish conceipt: how he had guld the simple Barbor, who sat all this while with the porter blowing of his nailes, to whome came this fellow that let out George, you who- son keeperly rascoll, quoth the fellow, do you come to g- rest any honest gentleman in my Maisters house? not I so God helpe me, quoth the Barbor. I pray Sir where is the Gentleman Maister Peele that came along with me, farre enough, quoth the fellow, for your comming neare him, hee is gone out at the garden doze, Garden doze quoth the Barber, why haue you any more dozes then one, wee haue sir, and get you hence or Ile set you going goodman keeper, alas quoth the Barber, Sir I am no keep- er, I am quite vndone: I am a Barbor dwelling at Brain- sozd, and with weeping teares vp and tolde him howe George had vled him, the seruant goes in and tels his M. which when he heard, he could not but laugh at the first: yet in pittie of the poore Barbor he gaue him twenty Shillings towards his losse. The Barber sighing tooke it, and towards Brainsozd whome he goes, and wheras he came from thence in a newe Cloake and a faire Hat, hee went home weeping in an olde Hatte, and a green Jer- ken.

¶ ¶ ¶ ¶

How

How George Peele became a
Phisition.

GEorge on a time beeing happily furnished both of horse and money, though the horse he hired, and the money hee borrowed: but no matter how he was possesse of them, and towards Dr. so: he rides to make merrie with his friends and fellow students: and in his way he toke vp Wickham, where he sojourned that night: Being at supper accompanied with his hostes: among other table talke, they fell in discourse of Chirgerie, of which my hostes was a simple professor. George Peele observing the humors of my the Chirgion, upheld her in all the strange cures she talked of, and praised her womanly endevors, telling her he loved her so much the better: because it was a thing that he professed, both Phisicke and Chirgerie: and George had a Dictionary of Phisicall words, that it might set a better gloss upon that which he seemingly profess: and told his good hostes at his returne hee would teach her something that should do her no hurt: so: quoth he at this Instant I am going about a great Cure as far as Warwick-shire to a gentleman quoth he, of great living, and one that hath bene in a consumption this halfe yeare, and I hope to doe him good! O God, quoth the hostes, there is a Gentleman not a quarter of a mile off, that hath bene a long time sicke of the same disease: Beleue me sir, quoth the hostes, would it please your worshippe ere your departure in the morning, but to visite the Gentleman, and but

C

spent

spend your opinion of him, and I make no question
 but the Gentlewoman will be very thankfull to you,
 I faith, quoth George, happily at my returne I may.
 But at this time, my host is such that I cannot, and
 so God night good hostes: So away went George to
 bed, and my gyddie hostes right of the nature of
 most women, thought that night as long as ten,
 till she was deliuered of that burthen of newes which
 she had receiued from my new Doctor: for so he ter-
 med himselfe. Morning beeing come, at bzeake of
 the day my hostes trudges to this Gentlemans house,
 acquainteth his wife what an excellent man shee
 had at her house: protesting hee was the best sene
 in Physicke, and had done the most strangest cures
 that euer she heard of: saying that if shee would but
 send for him, no question hee would doe him good.
 The Gentlewoman glad to here of any thing that
 might procure the health of her husband: presently
 sent one of her men, to desire the Doctor to come
 and visite her husband: Which message when
 George heard he wondred: for hee had no meze skill
 in Physicke then in musicke, and they are as distant
 both from him, as heauen from hell: But to con-
 clude, George set a bold face on it, and away went
 he to the sicke Gentleman: Where when he came,
 after some complement to the Gentlewoman, hee
 was brought to the Chamber where the aunted
 Gentleman lay wonderful sicke: For all Physicke had
 giuen him ouer, George begins to feele his pulses
 and his temples: saying, he was very farre spent.
 yet quoth he, vnder God I will doe him some good,
 if nature be not quite extant: whereupon he deman-
 ded whether they had euer garden: That I haue,
 quoth

quoth the Gentlewoman, I pray you direct me thither. quoth George. Where when he came he cut a handfull of euery flower, hearbe and blossome, or whatsoeuer else in the garden, and brought them in, in the lapid of his cloake: Boyld them in Ale, straind them, boyld them againe: and when he had all the iuyce out of them: of which hee made some pottle of drinke: he caused the sicke Gentleman to drinke off a maudlin cup full, and willed his wife to glue him of that same at morning, none, and night, protesting if any thing vnder God in this world did him good, it must be that: giuing great charge to the Gentlewoman to keepe him wonderfull warme, and at my returne, quoth George, some ten dayes hence, I will returne and see how he fares: For, quoth he, by that time some thing will be done, and so I will take my leaue, not so. quoth the Gentlewoman, your Worshipp must needes stay and take a simple dinner with me to day. Indeepe, quoth George, I cannot now stay: my hast is such. I must presently to horse: For George was in hast vntill he was out of the Gentlemans house: For hee knewe not whether hee had poysoned the Gentleman or not, which made him so eager to bee gone out of the gentlemans house: The Gentlewoman seeing she could not stay him, gaue him two brace of Angels, which neuer shined long in his purse: and desired him at his returne to knowe her house, which George promised: and with some nicenesse tooke the gold, and towards Oxford went he fortie Shillings heavier then he was, where he dominated while his phisicall money lasted. But to see the Traungeness of this: whether it was the vertue of some hearbe which

he gathered, or the conceipt the Gentleman had of George Peele: but it so pleased God the Gentleman recovered, and in eight dayes walked abroad: and that fortunate potion which George made at random did him more good, then many pounds that hee had spent in halfe a yeare in Physicke. Georges money beeing spent, made his returne towards London, and when hee came within a mile of the Gentlemans house, hee enquired of a countrey fellow how such a Gentleman did: the fellowe told him God be praised his good Landlord was well recovered by a vertuous Gentleman that came this way by chance: Art thou sure of it, quoth George, I beleue me, quoth the fellowe? I sawe him in the fieldes but this morning. This was no simple netwes to George. He presently set spurres to his horse, and where he thought to thinne the towne, he went directly to his Anne: at whose arrivall, the hostes clapt her hands, the Diller laught, the Tapster leapt, the Chamberlaine runne to the Gentlemans house, told him the Doctor was com: How joyfull the Gentleman was, imagine them that haue any after healths, George Peele, was sent for and after a million of thanks from the Gentleman and his friends: George Peele had 20. pounds Deliuered him, which mony, how long it was a spending let the Taverners in London witnes.

How

How George helped his friend to a
supper.

George was Inuited one night by certaine of his friends to supper, at the white horse in Friday Streete, and in the evening as he was going, hee met with an olo friend of his, who was so ill at the stomack hearing George tell him of the good cheere hee went to, himselfe being vnprovidid both of meate & money, that he swoze he had rather haue gone a mile about: then a met him at that instant, and besoze God, quoth George, I am hartily sozry, that I cannot take thee along with me, my selfe beeing but an inuited guest, besides thou art out a clothes, vnfitting so; such a company: Hary this Ile do, if thou wilt follow my aduise, Ile helpe thee to thy supper, any way, quoth hee, to George, do thou but deuise the meanes, and Ile execute it, George presently told him what he should do, so they parted, George well entertained with extraordinary welcome, and seated at the vpper end of the Table, supper beeing brought vp. H. M. watched his time below, and when he saw that the meate was carryed vp by he folloves (as George had directed him) who when George saw, you who? son Kalscoll, quoth George, what make you here? Sir, quoth he I am come from the party you wote of. You rogue, quoth George, haue not I forwarned you of this, I pray you Sir, quoth here my Arrant, do you prate you slaue, quoth George: and with that tooke a Rabbet out of the dish, and thzew it at him quoth he, you vse me very hardly, you donghill quoth George, do you our face me, & with that tooke the other rabbet and thzew it at his head.

after that a loafe, then drawing his dagger making an offer to throw it, the Gentlemen they stayd him, meane while W. S. got the loafe and the two Rabbeis and away he went, which when George saw he was gone, after a little fretting, he sat quietly, so by that honest shift he helped his friend to his supper, & neuer suspected for it of the company.

How George Peele was shauen, and of the reuenge hee tooke.

There was a Gentleman that dwelt in the West country, and had staid here in London a tearme longer then he intended, by reason of a Booke that George had to translate out of Greeke into English, and for he wanted money, George had it of the Gentleman, but the more hee supplide him of coyne, the further off was hee from his booke, and could get no end of it, neither by faire meanes, entreaty, or double payment, for George was of the poeticall disposition, neuer to write so long as his mony lasted. Some quarter of the booke beeing done, and lying in his hands at Randsome. The gentleman had plotted a meanes to take such an order with George, next time he came, that hee would haue his booke finished. It was not long before hee had his company, his arriual was for more mony: the Gentleman bids him welcome, causeth him to stay diner, where falling in discourse about his booke, found that it was as neare ended as he left it, two moneths agoe. The Gentleman meaning to bee gild no longer, caused two of his seruants to binde George hand and foote in a chayre, a solly it was for him

to aske what they ment by it, the Gentleman sent for a Barbor, and George had a beard of an indifferent size and well growne, he made the Barbor shane him beard and head: left him as daire of heire, as he was of money, the Barbor he was well contented for his paines, left George like an old woman in mans apparell, and his voice became it well: for it was more woman then man, George, quoth the Gentleman, I haue alwaies vsed you like a friend, my purse hath bene open to you, that you haue of mine to translate, you know it is a thing I highly esteeme; therfore I haue vsed you in this fashion, that I might haue an end of my booke, which shall be as much for your profit as my pleasure. So forthwith he caused his men to vnbind him, and putting his hand in his pocket, gaue him two brace of Angels, quoth he, Master Peele drink this, and by that time you haue finished my booke your beard will be growne, vntill which time, I know you will be ashamed to goe abroad, George patiently tooke the gold said little, and when it was darke night tooke his leave of the Gentleman, and went directly home. who when his wife saw, I omit the wonder she made, but I imagine those that shall behold their husband in such a case, to bed went George, and ere morning, he had plotted sufficiently how to cry quid pro quo, with his pollictick Gentleman.

The

•The Iest of George Peele at
Bristow.

GEorge was at Bristow, and there staying somewhat longer then his coyne would last him, his palfrey that should be his carier to London, his head was growne so big that he could not get him out of the stable, it so fortuned at that instant, certaine players came to the towne, and lay at that Inne where George Peele was: to whome George was well knowne, beeing in that time an excellent Poet, and had acquaintance of most of the best Players in England, from the triviall sort he was but so so: of which these were, only knew George by name no other wise, there was not past thre of the company come with the Carriage, the rest were behinde, by the reason of a long Journey they had, so that night they could not in-act, which George hearing had presently a Stratagam in his head, to get his Horse free out of the stable: and money in his purse to beare his Charges bp to London, and thus it was, hee goes directly to the Maior tells him he was a scholler and a gentleman, and that he had a tertan hystorie of the knight of Rhodes, & with all how Bristow was first founded and by whome, & a brieve of all those that before him had succeeded in office in that worshipfull City, desiring the Maior that he with his presence, & the rest of his Brethren would grace his labours: The Maior agreed to it, gaue him leave and withall apointed him a place, but for himselfe he could not be there beeing in the evening, but bid him make his best benefit he could of the City: and
very

very liberally gaue him an Angell, which George thankfully receiues, and about his businesse hee goes, got his stage made, his histoy cryed, and hyred the players Apparell, to flourish out his show, promising to pay them liberally, and withall desired them they fauour him so much as to gather him his mony at the dooze, so he thought it his best course to imploy them, least they should spy out his knauery, so they haue parlous heads, they willingly yeeld to doe him any kindnesse that lies in them, in brieft caries their apparell to the Wall. placeth themselves at the dooze, where George in the meane time with the ten shillings hee had of the Maior, ostendered his horse out of purgatory and caries him to the Townes end, and there placeth him, to be ready at his comming. By this time the Audience were come, and some forty shillings gathered, which mony George put in his purse, and putting on one of the Players like Robes, after the trumpet had sounded thise: out he comes, makes lowe obaysance, goes forward with his prologue, which was thus.

A tryfling toy, a Iest of no account, pardie.

The Knight perhaps, you thinke for to be I.

Thinke on so still, for why you know that thought is
Sit still a while, Ile send the Actors to ye. (free

Which being said, after some fire workes that hee had made of purpose, threw out among them, & down staires goes, he gets to his horse, and so with his forty shillings to London leaues the Players to answer it, who when the Iest was knowne, their Innocence excused them, being as well gulled as the Maior, and the Audience.

D

How

How George gulled a Punck, otherwise
called a Croshabell.

Coming to London he fell in company with a
Cokatrice; which pleased his eye, so well, that
George fell aboarding of her, & proffered her the wine:
which my croshabell willingly accepted, to the Ma-
uerne they go, where after a little Jole talke, George
fell to the question about the thing you wrote off:
My wee hobby was very dainty, which made George
arre more egar, and my lecherous animall proffe-
red largely to obtaine his purpose. To conclude, no-
thing shee would graunt vnto, except ready coyne,
which was forty shillings, not a farthing lesse, if so
he would, next night she would appoint him where he
should meete her: George saw howe the game went,
that she was more for laker, than for loue, thus run-
ningly answered her. Gentlewoman how soeuer you
speak, I doe not thinke your heart agrees with your
tongue, the money you demaund is but to trie me: and
indeede but a trifle to me, but for it shall not bee saide
I bought that Iem of you, I prize so highly, Ile giue
you a Token to morrow that shall bee more worth
then your demaund, if so you please to accept it, Sir,
quoth she, it contenteth me well, and so please you at
this time wale part: And to morrow in the euening
meete you where you shall appoint, the place was de-
termined, and they kiss, and parted, she home, George
into Saint Thomas Apostles to a friend of his that
he knew he could take vp a petticoate of trust, the first
letter of his name begins with C. a petticoate hee

of

of him at the prise of 5 s which money is owing to this day. The next night being come, they met at the place appointed, which was a Tavern, there they were to suppe, that ended, George was to goe home with her, to end his yeomans ples, in her common case. But Maister Peele had another drift in his mazard: so; he did so ply her with wine, that in a small time she sponne such a threed, that she roled homewarde, and George hee was saine to bee her suppofter: when to her house she came, with nothing so much painting in the inside, as her face had on the outside, with much adoe, her maide had her to Bed, who was no sooner laid but shee fell asleepe, which when George sawe, hee sent the Maide for milke, and a quart of sack to make a posset, where befoze her returne, George made so bold to take up his owne newe peticote, a faire gowne of hirs, two gold rings, that lay in the window, and away hee went, the Gowne and the gold Rings. hee made a chaffer, of the peticote, he gave to his honest wife, one of the best deedes hee ever did to her, how the croshebell lookt when she awaked and sawe this, I was neuer there to heare.

D :

How

How the Gentleman was gulled, for the
shauing of George.

GEorge had a Daughter, of the age of ten yeares:
 A Girle of a pretty forme, but of an excellent wit,
 all part of her was Father, save her middle and shee,
 had George so tutor'd all night, that although himselfe
 was the Authoꝛ of it, yet had he by transfoꝛmed into
 his daughters shape: he could not haue done it with
 moze conluite. George at that time dwelt at the bank
 side, from whence comes this shee sinow, early in the
 moꝛning, with her haire dicheuelled, wꝛinging her
 hands, and make such pitifull mone: with strikes &
 teares, and beating of her bꝛest, that made the people
 in a maze, some stode wondꝛing at the childe, others
 plucketh her to know the occasion, but none could stay
 her: but she kept her foꝛney crying, & her Father,
 her good father, her deare Father, ouer the bꝛidge thoꝛ-
 ough Cheapside, and so to the old Baley, where the
 Gentleman soiour'd, there sitting her selfe downe, a
 hundred people gaping on her, there she begins to cry
 out woe to that place: that her Father euer saw it, she
 was a cast away, her mother was vndone, till with the
 noyse, one of the Gentlemans men comming downe,
 looked on her, & knew her to be George Peeles daugh-
 ter: he presently runnes vp and tels his M^r. who com-
 manded his man to bꝛing her vp. the Gentleman was
 in a cold sweet, fearing that George had soꝛ the wꝛong
 that he did him the day befoꝛe some way misdoon him-
 selfe. when the Girle came vp, hee demaunded the
 cause why she so lamented, and called vpon her father
 George

(George, his flesh and bloode) after a million of stiches, cryed out vpon him, he had made her father. her good father downe himselfe. which words once vttered, she fell into a counterfaint sound, whome the Gentleman soone recovered, these newes went to his heart, and he being a man of a very milde condition, cheered by the Gentleman made his men to goe buy her newe clothes from top to toe, said he would be a father to her, gaue her five pounds, and bid her goe home and carie it to her mother, and in the euening he would visit her. At this by little and little, she began to be quiet, desiring him, he would come and see her mother, he tels her: he will not faile, bids her go home quietly: so downe stayres goes she peartly, and the wondering people that stayd at doore, to heare the manner of her grieve, had of her naught but knauisht answeres, and home went she directly. The Gentleman was so possessed in minde and disturbd in thought, at this unhappy accident, that his soule could not be in quiet, till he had bene with this wofull widow, as he thought & presently went to the Black-fryers, toke a paire of Dares & went directly to George Peeles House, where he found his wife plucking of larkes, my crying crocodile turning of the spit, and George, pind vp in a blanket, at his translation, the Gentleman moze glad at the vnlooked for life of George, then the losse of his money, tooke part of the good cheere George had to dinner, wondered at the cunning of the wench, & within some few dayes after, had an end of his booke.

The Iests of George Peele.

How George read a play booke to
a Gentleman.

There was a Gentleman, who God had indued
with good lining to maintaine his small wit:
he was not a foole absolute: although in this
wozld he had good fortune, and he was in a man-
ner an Ingell to George, one that tooke great de-
light to haue the first hearing of any worke that
George had done, himselfe being a wyter, and had a
Poeticall inuention of his owne: Which when hee
had with great labour finished, their satall ende was
to printe purposes. This selfe conceyted booke, had
George inuited to halfe a score sheetes of paper, whose
Christianly pen had writt Finis to the famous play of
the Turkish Mahamer. And Hyrin the faire Greeke,
in the Italian called a Curtezian. in Spaine a Bar-
gerite, in French un Curtain, in England among the
barbarous a whoze: but among the Gentle their,
bismall associates a punke: but now the word refined
being latest: and the authoritie brought from a cli-
mate as yet vnconquered: the fruitfull countie of
Kent they call them. Crophabell is a word but lately
bled, and sitting with their trade, beeing of a lovely
and of curteous condition: leauing them thus fanta-
sticke, whose byaine was made of traught but cooke
and sponge. Came to the cold lodging of Monsieur
Peele, in his blacke Satten sute: his gowne furred
with Cong in his slippers: beeing in the euening,
thought to heare his booke, and so to returne to his
Anne. This not of the wisest (being of Saint Bar-
nards)

wards) George bids him welcome: told him he would gladly haue his opinion in his booke: hee willingly condescended, and George beginnes to read, and betweene euery scame he would make pauses, and demaund his opinion how hee liked the cariage of it: quoth hee. wondrous well, the conueyance! But, quoth George, the end is farre better: for he meant another conueyance, ere they two departed, George was very tedious in reading, and the night grew old: before God, quoth the Gentleman, I haue stayd ouer long, I feare me I shall hardly get into my Inn: if you feare that, quoth George, we will haue a cleane paire of sheetes, and you shall take a simple lodging here: This house-gull willingly embraced it: and to bed they go, where George in the mid of night spying his time. put on this Dozmouse his clothes, desired God to keepe him in good rest: honestly takes leave of him and the house: To whom he was indebted foure nobles. When this Dozme awaked and found himselfe so left: he had not the wit to be angrie: but swore scurrily at the misfortune. and sayd, I thought he wold not haue vsed him so: And although it so pleased the fates he had another shute to put on: yet he could not get thence till he had payd the money George ought to the house, which say his credit hee did: And when hee came to his lodging: in anger he made a Poem of it:

Peele is no Poet, but a gull and a clowne,
To take away my cloathes and gowne:
I vow by Ioue, if I can see him weare it,
Ile giue him a glyg, and patiently beare it.

How

How George Peele, Serued Halfe a score Cittizens.

George once had invited halfe a score of his friends
to a great supper, where they were passing mer-
rie no cheere wanting, wine enough musicke, playing
fine the night growing on, and being vpon departure
they call for a reckning, George sweres there is not a
peny for them to pay, they being men of good fashion,
by no meanes will yeeld vnto it, but enery man
thowes downe his money, some ten shillings, some
foure, some lesse, some more: protesting something
they will pay: well, quoth George, taking vp all the
money, seeing you will be so wilfull, you shall se what
shall follow, he commaunders the musick to play, and
while they were scipping and dancing, George gets
his cloake, sends vp two pottles of Hypocrisite, & leaues
them and the reckoning to pay. They wondring at
the stay, if George ment to be gone, but they were stayd
by the way, and befoze they went: forced to pay the
reckoning a new, this showed a minde in him, he cared
not whome he deceiued, so he profited himselfe for the
time.

A Iest of George, Ryding to Oxford.

There was some halfe dozen of Cittizens, that had
oftentimes beene sollicitous to George, he beeing
a Sp. of Arte at the Uniuersitie in Oxford, that hee
would

would ride with them to the commencement, it being
at Windsor, George willing to pleasure the Gentle-
men his friends, Rode along with them, when they had
Rode the better of the way, they bayted at a Village
called Woking, within a mile of Wicksam, good chere
was be spoken for dinner: and so, it was the compa-
nie all saving George, who could not bee in that plea-
sant baine that did ordinarily possesse him: the rea-
son he was without mony: but hee had not set forty
turnes about the chamber before his noddle had in-
tertayned a consayt how to manie himselfe with cre-
dit, & yet glene it from some one of the companie which
among them was an excellent ass, a fellow that no-
thing but frisk vp and downe the chamber, that his
mony might be heard chide in pocket, this fellow, had
George obserud & secretly conuayd his gilt rapier and
dagger into another chamber, and there clostly hid
hid it, that done, he called vp the Tapster, and vpon
his cloake borrows 5 shillings for an houre, or so, till
his man came: as he could fashion it well enough, so
much mony he had, and then who more merrier then
George: meate was brought vp, they set themselves
to Dinner, all full of Ioculance, especially my little one
that drank not of the conclusion of ther feast, dinner
ended, much prattle past, every man begins to buckle
to his furniture: among whome this hichcock missed
his Rapier, at which all the company was in a maye:
he besides his little wits, so that he had borrowed it
of a speciall friend of his: & swore he had rather spend
twenty nobles, this is strange: quoth George it should
be gone in this fashion, none being here but our selues
& the fellows of the house, who were examined, but
no rapier could be heard of, all the company much grie-
ued

but, but George in a pittifull chafe swoze, it should cost
 him forty shillings, but he would know what was be-
 come of it if art could do it, and with that hee caused
 the Officer to saddle his Bag, for George would ride
 to a Scholler, a friend of his, that had skill in such mat-
 ters. A good M. Peele, quoth the fellow want no mo-
 ney, here is forty shillings to what you can do, and if
 you please Ile ride along with you, not so, quoth Georg
 taking his forty shillings, Ile ride alone: & be you as
 merry as you can til my returne. So George left them
 & rid directly to Oxford, there he acquaints a friend of
 his withall the circumstance, who presently tooke
 Horse and Rid along with him to laugh at the Jest,
 when they came back: George tels them hee had
 brought one of the rarest men in England, whom they
 with much complement bids welcome: hee after a di-
 stracted countenance, and strange words, takes this
 bulfinch by the wrist, and caried him to the priuy, and
 there willed him to put in his head, but while hee had
 written his name, and told forty, which hee willingly
 did: that done, the Scholler asked him what he saw, by
 my faith Sir I smelt a villanous sent, but I saw no-
 thing: then I haue, quoth hee, and with that directed
 him where his Rapier was, who saith it is iust noz-
 theast inclosed in wood, neere the earth, for which they
 all made diligent search till George, that bid it vn-
 der a setell found it to the comfort of the fellow, the
 Joy of the company and the eternall credit of his
 friend, who was enterteyned with wine and sugar,
 and George redeemed his cloake, rid merrily to Ox-
 ford, hauing coyne in his pocket, where this lotch
 spares not for any expence, for the good fortune he had
 in the happie finding of his rapier

How George serued his
Hostice.

George lying at an olde Widowes house, and
 I had gone so farre on the scoze, that his credyt
 woulde stretch no further: for he had made a vow,
 not to departe with drynke or victuals, without
 redy mony: Which George seeing the fury of his most
 froward Hostis, in greife kept his Chamber, called
 to his Hostis, and told her shee should vnderstand
 that her was not without mony: how puzely so ever
 hee appeared to her, and that my dyet shall testify,
 in the meane time good Hostis quoth he, send for such
 a friend of mine, shee did, so his friend came: to
 whome, George imparted his minde: the effect was
 this to pawne his Cloake, hose and Dublet. unknown
 to his Hostis: for quoth George, this seauen nights do
 I inteno to keepe my bed, truly he spake, for his in-
 tent was, the bed should not keepe him any longer,
 away goes he to pawne his apparell, George bespeaks
 good cheere to supper, which was no shamble butcher
 stufte, but according to the place, for his chamber
 being remote from the house, at the end of the
 Garden, his apparell being gon, it appeared to
 him as the counter, therefore to comfort him selfe,
 he delt in poultry, his friend brought the mony, supped
 with him his Hostis hee liberally payd, but cancel-
 led with her at her unkindnes, vowing while hee
 lay there, none should attend him, but his friend.
 the Hostis replied a Gods name, shee was well

contented with it, so was George too: for none knew better then himselfe what he intended, but in brieft, thus he bled his kind hostis. After his Apparell & money was gone, he made bold with the fetherbed, he lay on, which his friend sily conualde away: hauing as villanous a wolfe in his belly as George, though not altogether so wise, so that fetherbed they deuoured in two daies fethers and all: which was no sooner digested, but away went the Couerled, sheetes and the blanket, and at the last dinner, when Georges god friend perceiuing nothing left but the bed cords: as the Diuell would haue, it straight came in his minde the fashion of a halter, the foolish kinde knane would needs fetch a quart of lacke for his friend George, which lack to this day neuer saw Wintners sello: now this villonous a month: after that his friend George whome he left in a cold Chamber: a thin shirt, a rauisht bed, no comfort left him: but the bare bones of dicealed rapons, in this distresse George bethought him what he might doe, nothing was left him: and as his eye wandzed vp and downe the empty chamber: by chaunce it found out an old Armour, at which sight, George was the ioyfulest man in Chzistendome for the Armour of Achyllis that Vlysis and Ajax stroue for: was not more pretious to them then this to him: so he presently claps it vpon his backe, the haibert in his hand, the Moryon on his head: and so gets out the backe way, marches from Shordich to Clearken well: to no small wondering to those specktatozs that beheld him, being arined to the wished haue he would bee, an old acquaintance of his, furnished him with an old suite, and an old cloake for his old armour: how the hostis looked when shee
saw

saw that metamorphisic in her chamber, Judge those
bomboxes that live by tapping, betweene the age of
50. and 3 score.

How he serued a Tapster.

GEorge was making merry with three or four of
his frindes in picozner, where the Tapster of the
house was much giuen to Boetrie: for he had ingro-
sed into his hands the knight of the sunne: Venus, and
Adonis, and other phamphlets which the stripling had
collected together, and knowing George to be a poet,
toke great delight in his companie, and out of his
bountie would needes bestow a brace, of cans of him,
George, obseruing the humoz of of the Tapster, meant
presently to worke vpon him. what will you say, quoth
George to his frindes: if I out of this spirit of the seller
ferth a good angell: that shall bid vs all to supper we
would gladly see that, quoth his frindes: content your
selfe, quoth George: the Tapster assends with his two
cans, deliuers on to maister Peele, and the other to his
frindes: giues them kind welcom but George in stead
of giuing him thanks bids him not to trouble him, &
begins in these terms: Befoze god gentlemen I won-
der you wil bzge me so much I protest, I haue it not a-
bout me. what is the matter, quoth the Tapster, hath
any on angered you: no faith, quoth George, Ile tell
thee, it is this, there is a friend of ours in Newgate: for
nothing but only the command of the Iustices, and
he is now to be released, sends to me to bzing him an
gell: now the man I loue darly well for if he want ten
angels he shall haue them for I know him shure: but

here is the Dinell, either I must goe home, or I must be forced to payne this: and plucks an old Harry groate out of his pocket: the Tapster lookes vpon it. why, and it please you Sir, quoth he this is but a groate no Sir, quoth George, I know it is but a groate, but this groate will I not lose it for forty pound, for this groat had I of my mother, as a testimony of a Lease of a House I am to possesse after her decease, and if I should lose this Groat, I were in a faire case. and either I must payne this Groate, or there the fellow must be still, quoth the Tapster, if it please you I will lend you an Angell of it, and I will assure you, it shall bee safe. Will? then quoth George? as thou art an honest Man: lock it vp in thy Chest, and let me haue it whensoever I call for it. As I am an honest man, you shall quoth the Tapster, George deliuered him his groat, the Tapster gaue him ten shillings, to the Lauerne go they with the money, and there merri-ly spends it: it fell out in a small time after, the Tapster hauing many of these lurches fell to decay, and indeede was turned out of seruaice, hauing no more toyle in the world then this groat, and in this misery met George as poore as him selfe. O Sir, quoth the Tapster you are happily met. I haue your groate safe, though since I saw you last. I haue bid great extremity: and I protest, saue that groate, I haue not any one penny in the world, therefore I pray you Sir. helpe mee to my money, and take your payne, not for the world, quoth George, thou sayest thou hast but that Groate in the world. My bargaine was, that thou shouldest haue that groate untill I did demaunde it of thee. I aske thee

The Iests of George Peele.

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none: I will doe thee farre moze good, because thou art an honest fellowe: keepe thou that groate still, till I call for it: and so doing, the proudest iacke in England cannot Iustifie thou art not worth a groate, otherwise they might: So honest Michaell, farewell. So George, leanes the poore Tapper picking of his fingers, his head full of proclamations what hee might doe, at last, sighing hee ends with this prouerb.

For the price of a barrell of Beere:
I haue bought a groates worth of Wit,
Is not that deere.

How George serued a Gentle- woman.

George vsed often to an ordinary in this towne where a kinswoman of the good wifes in the House held a great pride, and vaine opinion of her owne mother wit, for her tongue was as a Jack continually wagging, and for shee had heard that George was a Scholler, shee thought shee would finde a time to giue him notice, that shee had as much in her head, as euer was in her grandfathers, yet in something she differed from the women
in

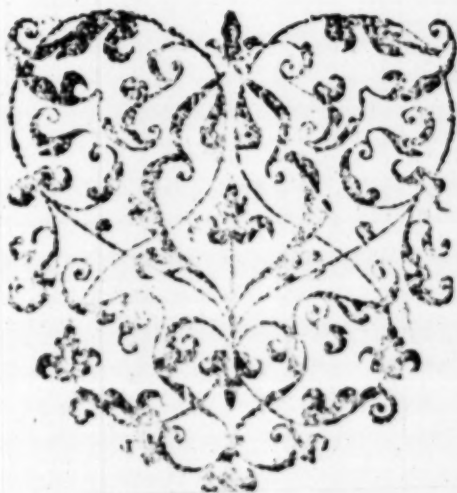
32 The Iests of George Peele.

in those dayes, for their naturall complexion was their bewtie, now this titimouse what she is scanted by nature: shee doth replenish by Art: as her boxes of red & white, which daily can testifie. But to come to George, who arived at the Ordinary, among other Gallents: throwes his Cloake upon the table, salutes the Gentlemen, and presently comes for a cup of canarie: George had a paire of hose on, that for some offence durst not be seene in that hue, they find dyed for, but from his first colour, beeing a youthfull greene, his long age turned him into a mournfull black: and for his antiquity was in print, which this busie body perceiving, thought now to giue it him to the quicke, and drawing neere M. Peele, looking upon his breeches, by my troth sir, quoth she, these are exceedingly wel printed, at which word, George being a little stirred in his mind, that his olde hose were called in question: made this present reply. And by my faith, quoth George: Mistres your face is most damnably ill paynted, how meane you Sir: quoth she, marry thus Gentlewoman quoth George, that were it not for paynting & painting, my arse, and your face would goe out of reparations: at which she biting her lip, in a parat furis went downe the staires, the Gentleman hartily laughed at the suddain answers of George. And beeing seated to dinner, the Gentleman would needs haue the company of this witty Gentlewoman to dyne with them, who with little denying came, in hope to cry quittance with George, when she was ascended, the Gentleman would needs place her by M. Peel: because they did vse to darte so dangerously one at the other, they thought it meete for their more safety, they should be placed nearest together. George, kindly entertaines her

The Iests of George Peele.

him: and being seated, he desires her to reach him the capon stood by her, and he would be so bold as to carue for his money: and as she put out her arme to take the capon, George sitting by her pearkes me out a huge fart: which made all the company in amaze, one looking vpon the other: yet they knew it came that way: peace quoth George, and logs her on the elbow, I will say it was I: At which all the company fell into a huge laughter, she into a fretting fury, bowing neuer she should sleepe quietly, till she was renenged of George his wrong done vnto her, and so in a great chafe left their companie.

FINIS.



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